

important positions: working at Irving Fire Station 2 and serving as captain of Fire Station 1.

A strict routine of great health practices allowed Captain Holder to perform his tasks at the highest possible level of skill, which helped him as the lead man for his shift's Swift Water Rescue Team. His commitment to conditioning, training, firefighting, and enjoying life has been a leading example to all the members of the Irving Fire Department.

In 2005, Captain Holder was honored with a Texas State Proclamation and the city of Irving declared December 1st "Shakey Holder Day" in recognition of his outstanding service. In 2006, Captain Holder received The "Shakey" Gene Holder Lifetime Achievement Award, named after him for his lifetime dedication to the Irving Fire Department as a front-line firefighter. In 2010, he received the Fire Chief Award, and in the spring of 2011, the captain was recognized at the Texas State Capital for his 55 years of service.

On behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Captain Holder for his years of public service to the city of Irving.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BENJAMIN QUAYLE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. QUAYLE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, September 20, 2011, I missed rollcall votes numbered 712, 713, and 714. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 2944, the United States Parole Commission Extension Act of 2011, "aye" on H.R. 2189, the Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2011 and "aye" on H.R. 2646, to authorize certain Department of Veterans Affairs major medical facility projects and leases, to extend certain expiring provisions of law, and to modify certain authorities of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

ON THE REPEAL OF "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL"

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

Today, we are one step closer to our nation's promise of liberty and justice for all people. The repeal of this misguided policy has ensured that our country's laws are applied equally and that gay, lesbian, and bisexual service members will no longer have to lie about who they are in order to serve their country. It will also enhance our national security.

As a member of the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee, I believe that one of my most important jobs is to ensure that the U.S. armed forces remain the best equipped, best prepared, and most powerful in the world. By sending home more than 13,500 motivated and qualified patriotic service members since 1994, who were willing and fit to serve this

country, "Don't Ask Don't Tell" has without a doubt weakened our military. I was privileged to have had the opportunity to vote in favor of its repeal.

Today, all those in our society who are ready, able, and willing to serve in the U.S. military will be guaranteed their right to do so. The U.S. Constitution, specifically the 14th Amendment, requires the government to apply our laws equally. Now, only negative conduct, not one's sexual orientation, will be grounds for dismissal from our nation's military. Investing many millions of dollars to train these individuals and then dismissing them, in the absence of bad conduct, has wasted many millions of precious taxpayer dollars and compromised our national security.

As we celebrate this major milestone, many formerly discharged service members will re-enter the armed services to serve alongside their friends and military family. We must ensure that the U.S. military treats all of our service members equally. Gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals must have access to the same rights as their heterosexual peers. Anything less is unacceptable and utterly un-American.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in my family, I was absent for legislative business on Tuesday, September 20, 2011. As a result, I missed rollcall votes 712–714. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes: Rollcall 712–H.R. 2944, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, "yes"; rollcall 713–H.R. 2189, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, "yes"; rollcall 714–H.R. 2646, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, "yes."

CELEBRATING THE RELOCATION OF METROCREST SOCIAL SERVICES RESALE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to celebrate the relocation of the Metrocrest Social Services Resale facility. From its humble beginnings in 1971, this organization has exemplified charity and service throughout its rich history in the Metrocrest community.

Metrocrest Social Services opened its doors in Farmers Branch as the TRUTH House, serving underprivileged teens. By 1984, the nonprofit organization changed its name to Metrocrest Social Services and expanded its operations, volunteer base, and geographic areas served. Today, Metrocrest Social Services has established itself as a vital part of the Metrocrest community, providing emergency assistance and beneficial programs to move families toward self-sufficiency. Metrocrest Social Services serves the residents of Carrollton, Farmers Branch, Addison, Coppell

and parts of Dallas. During 2010, the organization assisted 12,052 individuals with one or more services.

In 1989, the first Metrocrest Thrift Store opened in the Old Carrollton Square to help people receive clothing, household goods, and support. In 2002, the Thrift Store relocated to Beltline Road and Josey Lane. The new 8,238 square foot Metrocrest Resale facility, located at Midway Road and Trinity Mills Road, will continue to support day-to-day operations of Metrocrest Social Services and its mission to prevent homelessness in the Metrocrest community.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Metrocrest Social Services as they relocate their Resale facility. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Metrocrest Social Services for its faithful service to our community.

SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL BREAST CANCER COALITION'S BREAST CANCER DEADLINE 2020

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I have pledged my strong support for the goals of the National Breast Cancer Coalition's, NBCC, newly launched initiative, Breast Cancer Deadline 2020, and I encourage all of my colleagues—on both sides of the aisle—to join me. This initiative represents an historic commitment to dedicating the resources, expertise, and strategic planning we need to end breast cancer, once and for all. Breast cancer has affected too many of my constituents, family members, and friends to count, and caused far too much heartache. We can no longer tolerate stagnant rates of incidence and mortality. We must generate the will, and the investment we need, to eliminate breast cancer within the next decade.

The National Breast Cancer Coalition assures us that this goal is within reach, but it will require strategy and wisdom to attain. That is why NBCC has developed a multi-faceted strategy that has the potential to deliver the results we have been waiting for. The Breast Cancer Deadline 2020 plan includes a strong focus on science and research, with an emphasis on metastasis and primary prevention. The plan also includes a role for government; key players will convene to identify the most effective role for government to play in supporting research and health care. NBCC will release annual progress reports on the state of its work, and set forth guidance for the coming year. Alongside these strategic efforts, NBCC will engage in a large-scale effort to change the conversation surrounding breast cancer and engage the public to build momentum for the campaign.

NBCC's Breast Cancer Deadline 2020 campaign holds the promise of a new and improved approach to ending breast cancer. This is not an easy task, but with this kind of renewed energy and commitment, I have faith that we can get the job done. I know that the National Breast Cancer Coalition will wage a smart, well-organized fight in the next few years. I look forward to doing whatever I can to lend my voice and support for this campaign.

THE OVARIAN CANCER
AWARENESS RESOLUTION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this important bipartisan resolution that will help to raise awareness of the warning signs for ovarian cancer. This is an important vote that, put simply, will save lives of women across the country.

While we have made considerable progress in recent years in the war against cancer, thanks to the hard work of biomedical researchers at NIH and elsewhere, ovarian cancer has been a stubborn enemy. It remains the fifth most common cancer among women, and one I myself suffered from 25 years ago. It causes more deaths than any other female reproductive cancer. More than 15,000 of our friends and family are expected to perish from it this year.

Perhaps the saddest thing about these grim numbers is that some of these deaths are readily preventable. We know that women who catch their ovarian cancer at an earlier stage are over three times more likely to survive the disease than those who do not. Sadly, over 60% of the women diagnosed with ovarian cancer between 1999 and 2006 fell into this latter category.

That's why it is so important that we pass this resolution, and continue to help raise awareness about ovarian cancer. Of course, there are other steps we should also take. We need to re-fund Johanna's Law this year, which, despite strong bipartisan support, was zeroed out in the 2011 budget. And we need to continue to support the congressional-directed medical research program for ovarian cancer research at the Department of Defense, which was cut by 20% in the House's 2012 Defense Appropriations Bill.

But today, we can do our part by standing up against ovarian cancer, and passing this resolution. Cancer is indiscriminate. It does not care about your age, your family, your sex, your race, your religion, or your political party. It reminds us that we are all human and vulnerable. And that we must all come together—man and woman, young and old, Democrat and Republican—to fight it on every front.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and to help put an end to deaths from ovarian cancer.

CONCERNS REGARDING “EX-
TRAVAGANT AND WASTEFUL”
SPENDING AT THE DEPARTMENT
OF JUSTICE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit a letter that I sent to Attorney General Holder on the report by the Office of Inspector General on the “extravagant and wasteful” spending on conference planning and refreshments.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,
Washington, DC, September 20, 2011.

Hon. ERIC H. HOLDER, Jr.,
Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice,
Washington, DC.

DEAR ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER: I was deeply concerned to read the Audit of Department of Justice Conference Planning and Food and Beverage Costs, which was released today by the Office of the Inspector General. This report details the Acting Inspector General's finding that DOJ spent more than \$120 million on 1,832 conferences over two years, including “extravagant and wasteful” spending on food and beverages.

In one egregious example that occurred during your tenure as Attorney General, the Department spent \$16 on each of 250 muffins served at an Executive Office for Immigration Review conference. In another case, the audit found that neither the Office of Justice Programs nor the Office on Violence Against Women required event planners to track and report salary and benefit costs on contracts totaling more than half a million dollars.

As Chairman of the House Appropriations subcommittee that funds the Justice Department, I am troubled about the financial mismanagement that has taken place at the Department during the same period in which this country has weathered a severe recession and a tenuous economic recovery. It is clear that while American taxpayers were tightening their belts and making difficult financial decisions, the Department was splurging on wasteful snacks and drinks as well as unnecessary event planning “consultants.”

Over the last year, the House Appropriations Committee has had to make difficult choices about deep spending reductions to reflect the austere budget environment. Appropriations for the Department were reduced by 2.8% overall in fiscal year 2011, and are reduced by another 3.4% in the House-reported bill for fiscal year 2012, a total reduction of more than \$1.7 billion over two years.

Clearly there is still more work to be done to address wasteful spending at the Department. I expect you and other Department officials to immediately address the OIG's recommendations, and renew efforts to root out and eliminate wasteful spending practices such as those detailed in this report.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Chairman, House Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE RE-
STORING PROTECTION TO VIC-
TIMS OF PERSECUTION ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleague, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, to reintroduce the Restoring Protection to Victims of Persecution Act, a bill that would end the practice of barring asylum claims by those who have been in our country for more than a year.

In 1996, this one-year bar to asylum was enacted as a way to prevent fraudulent claimants from being granted asylum. Sixteen years later, there is no evidence to show that deadlines of this nature are effective in preventing fraud. Rather, the implementation of this law

has resulted in the return of refugees to countries where they face persecution because of their gender, religion, nationality, or political involvement.

Although the law includes exceptions to excuse those who are determined to have valid reasons for applying for asylum after one year, adjudicators routinely deny applicants who meet these exceptions. People who are attempting to care for their children, hide from their abusers, cope with past trauma, and deal with the challenges of surviving in a new country are repeatedly and arbitrarily denied asylum status because of missing the one-year deadline.

Once denied, an applicant has only two other possibilities for safety: to petition for withholding of removal or to seek protection under the Convention Against Torture. Both these forms of relief demand an applicant surmount a much higher standard of proof than asylum and do not allow reunification with family members or provide them permanency.

Everyone in Congress can agree that our immigration system is overwhelmed with a massive backlog of cases and in desperate need of reform. The one-year deadline only adds to this amassment of immigration cases and leads to government waste. More importantly, this law is hurting the very people we ought to be helping. This is a human rights issue that must be addressed as quickly as possible, and I implore my colleagues to support this desperately needed legislation.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF MADISON AREA
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Madison Area Technical College and to honor the education and enrichment this institution brings to the people of Wisconsin.

Madison College was founded in 1912 and quickly gained the reputation of a prestigious technical and community college. The technical school offers associate degrees, professional certificates, and specialized vocational training that reaches far beyond the walls of its main campus in Madison. The ability to receive specific training in 140 pertinent and growing career fields from a technical college is essential to the success of our community, especially in the tough economic times we find ourselves in today.

Madison College's vision is to transform lives, one at a time. This vision holds true from the Madison campuses all the way to each of the regional campuses in Fort Atkinson, Portage, Reedsburg, and Watertown. The skills students gain while attending the institution provide them with the tools to be successful in their future endeavors. The class size of only 20 students allows students and dedicated instructors to form a close bond, enhancing the educational experience.

The mission of the institution is to provide “accessible, high-quality learning experiences that serve the community.” Madison College's affordable tuition, financial aid, and scholarship opportunities ensure students from all